

does it adequately address defensive medicine. And in the midst of States struggling with financial constraints, it will burden them with more unfunded mandates from the Federal Government.

This latest proposal may be a different name, but even with a new name, the legislation remains a government takeover of health care.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS TAX CREDIT

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, last week, we received news of our first GDP growth we've had in a year. Our GDP increased by 3.5 percent last quarter, which was better than expected. This is welcome news and shows that our economy is finally moving in the right direction.

We still have a long road ahead to reach economic recovery. We must continue to help our families and communities find immediate relief. That's why I support an extension of the First-Time Homebuyers Tax Credit. This \$8,000 tax credit has helped produce more than 130 sales in Erie County in my district alone, and many more throughout western Pennsylvania.

I hope to see this tax credit extended so we can continue to give a boost to the housing market and help more Americans reach the dream of homeownership.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KLINE of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the consequences and costs of the majority party's proposed government takeover of health care.

Despite the lack of bipartisanship and the absence of the transparency promised by Speaker PELOSI, the House is poised to vote this week on a bill that will give control of one-sixth of our economy to the Federal Government. Sadly, the \$1.3 trillion price tag is not the only cost of this risky proposal. The bill also saddles Americans with 111 new boards, offices, commissions and programs, all of which will be required to implement Speaker PELOSI's takeover.

Further, this bill imposes hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes on small businesses, individuals who cannot afford health coverage, and employers who cannot afford to provide coverage that meets Federal bureaucrats' standards.

Mr. Speaker, these costs are far too much to ask the American people to bear. It is time to press the reset button and come together to create a

health care proposal that meets the needs of every American and saves our economy from additional burdens we cannot afford.

WE ARE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. It is about the spending. People back home are asking me, How much is enough for you? Another \$1.2 trillion bill in this national takeover of our health care. I think this is the third \$1 trillion bill of this year at a time when we have almost a \$2 trillion deficit this year.

Now, we can't raise enough tax dollars, we can't cut Medicare enough from our seniors to cover this cost. Everyone but the best Kool-Aid drinkers around know this bill is going to add to our national debt. Soon—and maybe by next year at the rate that this Congress is spending—our national debt will equal the size of our GDP, which is what the economists say is the tipping point that is going to drag our economy down. What does this mean? It means that my children and your children are going to pay this off with fewer opportunities than we have today.

We are going in the wrong direction for the dream for our children in America.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, we've heard lots of stories today, and it has touched our hearts. We know there are people out there suffering because we've got some major problems with our health care system. We know that there are uninsured people because the costs are just too high, they're priced out of the market, or they've got a pre-existing condition. We know that, for example, there is not interstate competition that goes on that boosts up the cost, along with the fact that we have excessive litigation in our society.

We could have fixed these issues so that everybody could be covered. The Republicans were willing to do it, but we were frozen out of this whole system because the Democrats didn't want to reform the system; they wanted to transform our current health care system into a government-run, bureaucratic Federal program.

And they are doing that at the expense of seniors, where \$400 billion is being taken out of their Medicare funds at the expense of small business and, yes, at the expense of all those people who are currently insured who will be thrown into this government-run system which will be inferior to the ones they have now in the private sector.

This is a travesty. We should have worked together on this, but the Democrats wouldn't do it.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. POSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my serious concerns about the health care bill that's being rushed to the floor. This 2,000-plus-page bill has hundreds of new pages that no one yet has had a chance to read, much less understand.

There are over 110 new Federal programs and bureaucracies, each with its own new costly mandates. This bill taxes you if you have health insurance, it taxes you if you cannot afford to have health insurance, and it taxes you if you are a small business and you cannot afford to give health insurance to all of your employees. It has over \$730 billion in new job-killing taxes.

What Americans need today more than anything else is new jobs, but this bill will result in the loss of another 5.5 million jobs. Congress can't even figure out how to make its own workweek, much less change the whole health care system. Let's use a little common sense around here for a change.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. We often hear that America has the best health care system in the world; but the cold, hard facts don't agree. Between 1997 and 2002, when researchers compared preventable deaths from diabetes, cancer and heart disease, among others, in 19 industrialized countries, the United States placed last, dead last. 75,000 lives could have been saved had the United States achieved just the average preventable death rate of its counterparts. Since 2002, another 75,000 deaths could have been prevented.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act will reduce preventable deaths. H.R. 3962 completely bans preexisting condition exclusions by 2013 and ends copays and deductibles for preventive care under Medicare and Medicaid. And H.R. 3962 will train many more primary care providers and pay them better for their service.

Our current health care system is failing us. We need health reform now.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, everyone in America understands the need for health care reform, and so do I. Unfortunately, the new \$1.2 trillion, 2,000-